

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6417

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EGEN, RP, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CARGO FLIGHT REQUEST

REF: STATE 187935

1. DURING AUGUST 26 CALL OF FTL VP EMERSON ON AMBASSADOR, WE LED TO BELIEVE FTL APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULE CHANGE CITED REFTTEL WAS PRO FORMA. THERE WERE CERTAINLY NO REPEAT NO HIGH HOPES THAT PHIL CAB RESPONSE WOULD BE POSITIVE. IN OUR OWN VIEW SUCH A PETITION AT THIS STAGE WAS OF DUBIOUS WISDOM AND, AS INDICATED TO EMERSON, WAS AT BEST LIKELY TO EVOKE BITTER MEMORIES OF GUAM RIGHTSN ALTHOUGH WE MADE NO REPEAT NO ATTEMPT TO DISCOURAGE FTL FROM TRYING.

2. IN LATTER VEIN, WE FIND ARITHMETIC A TRIFLE INGENUOUS, BUT NOTE THAT PHIL CAB BOUGHT IT ONCE BEFORE, PERMITTING FTL EFFECTIVELY TO EXPAND TO THREE WEEKLY ROUND TRIPS, I.E. TO BRING CARGO TO MANILA FROM U.S. AND TO TAKE CARGO OUT OF MANILA FOR BEYOND POINTS AND U.S. ON EACH "WEST-BOUND" FLIGHT. IN THESE TERMS THE FTL PETITION IS FOR A FOURTH ROUNDTRIP FREQUENCY, IF FTL CONTINUES TO FLY TO AND THROUGH MANILA WESTWARD THREE TIMES WEEKLY AND EITHER PASSES THROUGH FROM WEST OR TURNS ANOTHER FLIGHT AROUND HERE. IF, HOWEVER, FTL APPLIED TO TURN ONE OF PRESENT THREE FLIGHTS AROUND AT MANILA THAT WOULD SEEM IN LINE WITH PRESENT PERMIT WITHOUT STRETCHING LOGIC OVERMUCH

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EVEN THOUGH WE BELIEVE LIKELY PHIL CAB RESPONSE IS, IN ANY

CASE, PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE.

3. ON OVERALL CARGO REGIME, WE NOTE THAT LARGEST EFFECTIVE EXPANSION IN CARGO CAPACITIES IS IN HANDS U.S. CARRIERS. WE DO NOT FEEL WE CAN ARGUE STRENUOUSLY WITH PHIL CAB TO REDRESS RESULTANT DISADVANTAGE TO FTL, EVEN THOUGH IT IS REAL ENOUGH.

4. RE NEW RELATIONSHIP, IN VIEW OF GREAT AND WELL-RECORDED DIFFICULTIES WITH SPECIFIC ISSUE OF FTL RIGHTS EXPERIENCED IN REACHING THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT, AND ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF LAST DITCH INTERVENTION OF MARCOS TO SAVE DEAL AND FTL RIGHTS, WE DO NOT FIND AN FTL PETITION THE BEST STARTING POINT FOR A TEST OF WHAT WE AGREE IS HOPEFULLY LESS RIGID RELATIONSHIP.

5. REINFORCING FOREGOING JUDGMENT, EMBASSY HAS JUST LEARNED FROM FTL REP FAUSTINO THAT PHIL CAB REASON FOR DENYING PETITION WAS EXPECTATION THAT NO REPEAT NO CHANGE WOULD BE MADE IN FTL SCHEDULE PENDING WASHINGTON TALKS. FYI FAUSTINO ALSO STATED PETITION SOUGHT TO TERMINATE FLIGHTS IN TAIPEI INSTEAD OF BANGKOK, A DE FACTO ROUTE CHANGE WHICH EVOKED GREAT HEARTBURN FROM PAL. IN RESPONSE TO FAUSTINO INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE INVOCATION OF INTERIM ARRANGEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO RECONSIDER, EMBASSY HAS SUGGESTED THAT INTER ALIA, DEFACTO ROUTE CHANGE WOULD MAKE SUCH AN APPROACH ILL ADVISED. END FYI. SULLIVAN

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